



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

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Supervisor Biane Proposes Live Internet Broadcasts of Board Meetings

SAN BERNARDINO - Anyone with an Internet connection will be able to watch or listen to live and archived Board of Supervisors meetings once a project brought forward by Second District Supervisor Paul Biane is put into action.

Supervisors on Tuesday agreed to seek proposals from vendors who can assist the County in posting video and audio recordings of meetings on the Internet. County training and public service announcements also will be posted. Proposal responses are expected in February

Plans call for the Web site to include an archive of recorded meetings and a keyword search engine so users can quickly zero in on topics they are interested in. Viewers and listeners will be able to read backup materials such as staff reports, contracts and resolutions while they watch or listen to items being discussed.

"This is something I've wanted to put in place since I was elected to the Board," Supervisor Biane said. "It's very important for Board meetings to be as accessible as possible to the public, and this really makes that possible. These Web postings will allow anyone with an Internet connection, whether they are in Upland or Needles, to watch meetings live or to review past meetings."

Biane directed the Information Services Department to research how the County can post meetings translated into Spanish and how to post meeting transcripts for the hearing impaired.

"No one should be left out," Supervisor Biane said. "Everyone has a right to see their local government in action."

The site layout and features will be modeled after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Web page. About 2,000 viewers have logged onto the LA County site to watch a single meeting, and hundreds tune in for regular board meetings.

The Board of Supervisors also approved plans to seek proposals for an e-mail subscription service that will enhance the public's access to County information available on the Web.

The subscription service will allow County Web site users to sign up and receive e-mail updates on Board of Supervisors agendas, request for proposal releases, meeting calendars and other online services.

"This service will enable residents to keep track of the items or issues they are interested in, so they can be active participants in the local government process," Supervisor Biane said.